

ABSTRACT

In an image distribution system comprising a camera controllable by an external device, a camera server

5 having a function of digitizing and transmitting an image signal acquired by the camera via a network and a function of issuing authorization to control the camera,

a viewer which receives and displays the transmitted digitized image signal, further requests to control the

10 camera, and a network connecting the camera server and the viewer, in a case where the camera server issues the authorization to control the camera to the viewer and communication between the viewer and the camera server is undesirably terminated while the viewer holds the

15 authorization, when the viewer restores the communication within a predetermined period, it is allowed to continuously control the camera under the same conditions as at the time of the undesired termination.